

Please **DO NOT** give money to those begging on the steps or at the church gates, as we have established charities who operate here four nights a week. We ask all parishioners - and visitors - to keep a close eye on their belongings **DO NOT** leave bags unattended when approaching to receive Communion, it really does only take a moment for someone to spot an opportunity.

A reminder that the crypt is best accessed via the **staircase on the Blandford Street side** of the church, leading as it does directly to the Disabled toilet - where there are **baby changing facilities** - and the corridor on which the other cloakrooms are located.

Parish Repository	
<i>(located in the Memorial Chapel)</i>	
Weekdays	11.00 - 12.30
Saturday	15.45 - 16.45
Sunday	09.45 - 10.30
	11.30 - 13.00
	15.00 - 16.00

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 20th-25th October



Visits to the four major basilicas, each of which will have a Holy Door for Jubilee pilgrims, as well as the two English seminaries, the Vatican, the Catacombs and the English College summer residence on Lake Albano, and much more besides. The cost is likely to be £1,595 per person (sharing a bedroom) or £1,895 per person (single, with limited availability). **Those interested, or wanting further information, contact the parish office.**

If you can help the parish by making a donation or by a commitment to regular giving, it would be greatly appreciated. More information from the parish office or use the details set out below:-

HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY
Sort code: 40-05-20 Acc no: 91094394
WRCDT St James Spanish Place

We have '**one-off**' Gift Aid envelopes at various locations in church for cash offerings at Sunday Mass. Please complete all sections before ticking 'This' or 'all



Donations of any amount, for specific categories, using Contactless or Chip and PIN (including both **PARISH and ORGAN appeals**) can be made **AT FOUR STATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH**, online at [Give a Little](#) or by using the QR code.



Confessions between 12 noon and 1pm on weekdays.

The Church opens at 8am on weekdays and 9am on Saturday

St James's Roman Catholic Church

- Spanish Place - 22 George Street, W1U 3QY

PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of THE LORD 13th April 2025



Live-streamed on [YouTube](#)
Readings available on [Universalis](#)
Foreign languages available at
the back of the church

Responses for Solemn Latin on
pages 77/78 in the Mass Book

The Week Ahead

Sunday Year C Weekday Cycle I

Mon 14th 12.30pm and 6pm
Tues 15th 12.30pm and 6pm
Wed 16th 12.30pm and 6pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6.30pm
GOOD FRIDAY 3.00pm
Stations of the Cross 7pm
HOLY SATURDAY
THE EASTER Vigil 8pm

20th April 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

8am and 9am

10.30am [Solemn Latin]
12pm, 4pm & 7pm

TODAY'S LITURGY [Parish Mass Book page 190]

Isaiah 50:4-7

'I hid my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.'

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Philippians 2:6-11

'He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.'

Luke 22:14-23:56

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Reverend Monsignor Philip Whitmore (*Rector*)
The Reverend John Njorteah

The Reverend Mark Elliott-Smith (*in residence, Ordinariate*)

Telephone: 020 7935 0943 [Parish Office: 020 3475 9097]

Email: spanishplace@sjrcc.org.uk

Web: www.sjrcc.org.uk

The Rector writes

Holy Week has begun. This Sunday is **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.** We begin the commemoration of the events of the great week with a solemn celebration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. Palms will be blessed at the start of each Mass, and the 10.30 Mass is preceded by the Solemn Procession, beginning at the earlier time of 10.15am, from Manchester Mews, along Manchester Street and George Street and in through the main entrance of the church. We follow in the footsteps of Our Lord, reflecting in prayer on the fickleness of the crowd, who welcomed Jesus joyfully on "Palm Sunday", but only a few days later were baying for his blood.

The subdued mood of these days is reflected in the purple veils that cover the statues and crosses in the church. These will be removed when Easter comes. This practice has been likened to a visual fast, as we enter more deeply into the reality of Our Lord's suffering and death, and into the darkness of the tomb. On Palm Sunday, too, we hear the Gospel account of the Passion and death of the Lord, read to us for the first time in the new translation that was authorised for liturgical use at the start of Advent.

Holy Week also sees the **Mass of Chrism**, to be celebrated on **Tuesday in Westminster Cathedral** by our archbishop, Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Holy oils for use throughout the coming year will be blessed during the Mass and subsequently distributed among all the parishes of the diocese. These are the oils that will be used for baptisms and confirmations, as well as the anointing of the sick, throughout the next year. The cupboard where they are kept is known as the aumbry, and in our church it is situated on the sanctuary, close to the door that leads into the sacristy.

Chrism is also used for ordination, and the Mass of Chrism provides an opportunity for the priests of the diocese, gathered around the bishop, to renew the promises made on the day of our ordination. Please pray for us as we recommit ourselves to your service. The traditional day for the Mass of Chrism is actually Holy Thursday, the day when the priesthood was instituted at the Last Supper, although like many dioceses around the world, our own anticipates the celebration, in order to give priests more time to prepare for the Triduum liturgies.

We look forward to welcoming **Bishop Nicholas Hudson for the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday**, the first of the three Triduum liturgies. Following the account given in Chapter 13 of Saint John's Gospel, Bishop Hudson will be washing the feet of a group of parishioners. In January 2016, the Holy See issued a decree regarding those involved in this ceremony, saying that they should be "*a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity.*" Many thanks to those who have kindly agreed to take part.

At the end of Thursday evening's Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is taken in procession to the altar of repose, which in our case will be the Lady Chapel.

There, the faithful may watch and pray until midnight, after which the Sacrament will be removed from the Lady Chapel and taken to the house chapel.

On **Good Friday and Holy Saturday**, the Mass is not celebrated. We read in the missal that "by a most ancient tradition, the Church does not celebrate the Sacraments at all, except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick". The altar is stripped and bare. The tabernacle, of course, is empty. The collection on Good Friday is for the upkeep of the holy places in Jerusalem. On the afternoon of Good Friday, Holy Communion is distributed, but it is taken from the house chapel and returned there afterwards. In the evening we celebrate Stations of the Cross, with an opportunity for veneration of our parish's relic of the True Cross. The times of all the Holy Week services are published on the flyer that is available at the back of the church, and also on the website.

The Easter Vigil is the greatest celebration of the entire year, when we celebrate the Lord's resurrection from the dead. The Easter fire is blessed and the Paschal candle is lit from it. As the procession makes its way to the sanctuary, the candles held by every member of the Congregation are also lit. A hymn of praise, the Exsultet, is sung in the presence of the new Paschal Candle. We listen to four Old Testament readings, after which the Gloria returns, as does the "alleluia", for the first time since Ash Wednesday. After the intercessions, we come to the Liturgy of Baptism, when a new supply of holy water is blessed and sprinkled. It will be used to baptise three adults who have been preparing for this moment since the autumn. Together with a further adult who has already been baptised in another Christian community, they will then be confirmed. Please welcome these new members of our community, for whom we will be praying at Mass throughout the Easter octave.

In the meantime, our own teenagers who have been preparing for Confirmation are reaching an advanced stage of preparation. Like the adults to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil, they have the opportunity to choose a confirmation name, the name of a saint who can be a particular patron for them throughout their Christian lives. We don't normally have the opportunity to choose our name, so this is a particularly privileged opportunity.

Our minds will be much taken up with the liturgical celebrations of this great week. Nevertheless, we should not forget the sufferings of those affected by the terrible earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. CAFOD has been designated one of the DEC charities and donations can be made via the link: cafod.org.uk/Myanmar. As we recall the great things our Saviour has done for us, let us be mindful of those who continue to suffer in our world.

Philip Whitmore

A special welcome to our visitors. Refreshments are served in the Social Centre (in the crypt) after the 9.00am and 10.30am Masses. Do please join us if you have the time.
